

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dryer for drying pellets containing brown coal, comprising at least one substantially vertical elongate container having:

an open upper inlet for receiving a charge of moisture and the brown coal containing pellets;

an open lower outlet for discharging dried brown coal containing pellets, whereby said pellets travel under the influence of gravity from said open upper inlet to said open lower outlet in a substantially continuous manner;

two substantially vertical and opposed gas permeable walls through which a drying gas at temperatures from about 15°C to about 80°C can pass to contact said pellets;

wherein the gas permeable walls comprise a substantially continuous corrugated plate, wherein each corrugation comprises a supporting leg and a permeable leg angled with respect to each other;

said dryer also comprising plenums on exterior surfaces of said gas permeable walls, ~~covering ingress and egress openings within said permeable leg of said gas permeable walls~~, wherein the plenums are divided into zones of differing air stream properties, said air stream properties selected from the group consisting of velocity, flow direction, temperature and pressure.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Cancel)

4. (Currently Amended) The dryer according to claim 1 wherein ingress openings and egress openings are respectively provided within said gas permeable walls.
5. (Currently Amended) The dryer according to claim 4 wherein a plenum covering said ingress openings comprises at least one inlet and a plenum covering egress openings comprises at least one outlet.
6. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 5 wherein the at least one outlet comprises at least one extract duct.
7. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 5 wherein drying gas is drawn into the at least one inlet by a circulator.
8. (Original) The dryer according to claim 7 wherein the circulator is an induced draft fan.
9. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1 wherein the direction of drying gas flow through the charge of pellets is reversed from one plenum zone to an adjacent plenum zone.
10. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 5 wherein a desiccator or refrigerator is provided in conjunction with the at least one outlet to recover water from drying gas exiting the dryer.
11. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1 having a height to width ratio of at least 3:1.

12. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1 having a height to width ratio of at least 5:1.
13. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1 having a height to width ratio of at least 10:1.
14. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1 comprising lateral supporting members joining opposing gas permeable walls.
15. (Original) The dryer according to claim 14 wherein the supporting members are internal membrane walls that divide the dryer into a plurality of adjacent cells.
16. (Original) A cell of a dryer according to claim 15.
17. (Currently Amended) A drying plant comprising:
- (a) a conditioning bed for subjecting moisture and brown coal containing pellets to surface conditioning;
 - (b) at least one conveyer for conveying said surface conditioned brown coal containing pellets to the open upper inlet of a dryer according to claim 1;
 - (c) a collection surface for retrieving dried pellets from the dryer; and
 - (d) a pellet remover for removing dried pellets from said collection surface.
18. (Original) The drying plant according to claim 17 further comprising a compactor for production of brown coal containing compacted bodies.
19. (Currently Amended) The drying plant according to claim 18 wherein the compactor comprises a mixing and conditioning device and a pelletizer pelletiser.

20. (Currently Amended) A dryer for drying pellets containing brown coal comprising at least one substantially vertical elongate container having:

an open upper inlet for receiving a charge of brown coal ~~containing pellets~~;

an open lower outlet for discharging dried pellets ~~of brown coal~~, whereby said pellets travel under the influence of gravity from said inlet to said outlet in a substantially continuous manner;

two opposing substantially vertical gas permeable walls through which a drying gas at temperatures of from about 15°C to about 80°C can pass to contact said pellets;

wherein the gas permeable walls comprise a substantially continuous corrugated plate, wherein each corrugation comprises a supporting leg and a permeable leg angled with respect to each other;

said dryer also comprising plenums on external surfaces of the gas permeable walls ~~covering ingress and egress openings within said permeable leg of said gas permeable walls~~, wherein the plenums are divided into zones of differing air stream properties and wherein the direction of drying gas flow through the charge of brown coal containing pellets is reversed from one plenum zone to an adjacent plenum zone; the dryer comprising lateral internal membrane walls joining opposing gas permeable walls that divide the dryer into a plurality of adjacent cells.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of drying brown coal which comprises introducing brown coal fines into the compactor of the drying plant according to claim 18.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 1, wherein said plenums

are located external to said substantially vertical elongate container.

25. (Previously Presented) The dryer according to claim 20, wherein said plenums are located external to said substantially vertical elongate container.